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Ontario's farewell to the Earl of Dufferin
[Ottawa, 1878]

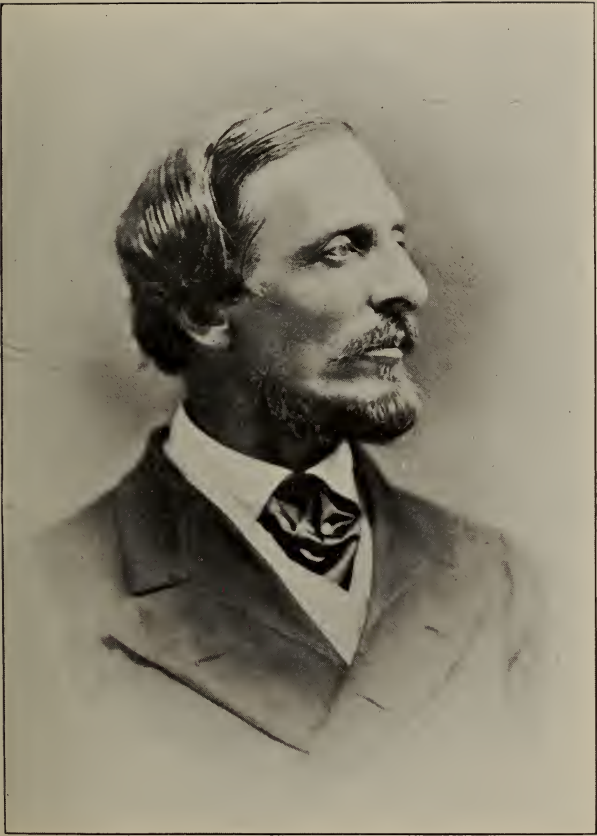
Ontario's
Farewell to
The Earl
Of Dufferin



Lord Dufferin's Farewell
—————Address—————
to the Canadian Citizens



From the "Ottawa Free Press"
of the 21st October, 1878



THE EARL OF DUFFERIN

ONTARIO'S FAREWELL TO
THE EARL OF DUFFERIN

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On Wednesday, the County Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, passed a resolution expressing its approval of the tribute paid to His Excellency, by the Municipal Corporation of Ontario.

The resolution also embodied a well merited recognition of the energy and perseverance of Mr. J. P. Macmillan, who originated and organized the deputation and carried out the programme in a manner eminently creditable to himself and acceptable to Earl Dufferin and to the various Corporations. No act in the history of Canada has ever been performed, which confers greater honor on the recipient, or affords a more convincing proof of the genuine affection of the people for their Vice Roy, than the Embassy sent from Ontario in September last, to place in the hands of the Governor its valadictory address. It was an act full of significance and was not the spasmodic effort of any particular class, or sect, or party, but was simply the spontaneous expression of the popular will. No potentate, however great or pow-

erful, could treat with indifference such an unprecedented example of the love of his subjects, and Lord Dufferin is not the man to accept without gratitude so splendid an ovation. He returns to Britain loaded with honors, regretted, beloved by all Canadians. No more pleasing reminiscence of his sojourn in Canada will form the subject of his reflections, or add more lustre to his distinguished career than the scene at the Citadel, on the 5th of September, 1878. A scene which the art of the photographer and the pen of the historian will reproduce, in the, as yet, unwritten memories of Earl Dufferin's Administration in Canada.

Resolution passed on the 15th October, 1878, by the Council of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

“ Moved by D. C. McRae, Reeve of the Township of Lancaster, and seconded by T. C. Chamberlain, that the thanks of this Council are due, and hereby tendered to William Mack, Esq., Warden, and to John N. Tuttle, Esq., Reeve of Iroquois, for having represented the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry on the occasion of the Municipal deputation from Ontario, to present a farewell address to the Earl of Dufferin at Quebec.

“ Also, that this Council do express its appreciation of the services rendered to Ontario, by J. P. MacMillan, Esq., of Guelph, in originating, organizing and carrying to a successful termination a project so befittingly expressive of the sentiments of the people towards the retiring Governor; and do record its satisfaction in knowing that Mr. MacMillan is a native of our United Counties, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. MacMillan.

“ Passed in Council, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, 16th October, 1878.”

Resolution passed by the County Council of the County of Wellington, on the 5th December, 1878.

“ It is moved by Matthew Sweetnam, Reeve of the Township of Guelph, seconded by James McMullen, Reeve of the Town of Mount Forest, That the County Council of the County of Wellington, at this its first opportunity, do officially endorse the action of J. P. MacMillan, Esq., Barrister of Guelph, in drafting, illuminating and presenting the joint Municipal address to His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, on the eve of his departure from Canada, and do fully concur in all the sentiments expressed therein, and consider it a graceful and appropriate tribute to the worth of that distinguished nobleman, and that this Council do further consider that the thanks of this as well as of every other Municipal Corporation in Ontario, are due to Mr. MacMillan for the ability, energy and perseverance exercised by him in carrying to a successful issue such a gigantic undertaking ; That this Council do express its gratification that so laudable a movement originated in the County of Wellington, and that the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to that gentleman.—Carried.”





Speech in reply to the joint Address of the
Municipal Corporations of the Province
of Ontario, September 5th, 1878,
at the Citadel, Quebec.



Lord Dufferin said :—I hardly know in what terms I am to reply to the address which has just been read, so signal is the honor which you have conferred upon me. That a whole Province as large, as important, as flourishing as many a European Kingdom should erect into an embassy the Mayors of its Cities the delegates of its urban and rural municipalities, and despatch them on a journey of several hundred miles to convey to a humble individual like myself an expression of the personal good will of the constituents they represent, is a circumstance unparalleled in the history of Canada, or of any other colony. (Applause.)

To stand, as I now do, in the presence of so many distinguished persons, who must have put themselves to so great personal inconvenience on my account, adds to my embarrassment.

And, yet, Gentlemen, I cannot pretend not to be delighted with so genuine a demonstration of regard on the part of the large hearted inhabitants of the great Province in whose name you have addressed me ; for quite apart from the personal gratification I experience, you are teaching all future administrators of your affairs

a lesson which they will gladly lay to heart, since it will show them how rich a reward you are ready to repay whatever slight exertions it may be within their power to make on your behalf. (Applause.)

And when in the history of your Dominion could such a proof of your generosity be more opportunely shown? A few weeks ago the heart of every man and woman in Canada was profoundly moved by the intelligence that not only was the Government of Great Britain about to send out as England's representative to this country one of the most promising among the younger generation of our public men, but that the Queen herself was about to entrust to the keeping of the people of Canada her own daughter. (Great applause.)

If you desire an illustration of the respect, the affection, the confidence with which you are regarded by your fellow-subjects at home, and by your Sovereign, what greater proof could you have than this; or what more gratifying, more delicate, more touching recognition could have rewarded your never-failing love and devotion for the Mother country and its Ruler? (Cheers.) But, though the citizens of Canada may well be proud of the confidence thus reposed in them, believe me when I tell you that, quite apart from these special considerations, you may well be congratulated upon the happy choice which has been made in the person of Lord Lorne for the future Governor-General of Canada. It has been my good fortune to be connected all my life long with his family by ties of the closest personal friendship. Himself I have known, I

may say, almost from his boyhood ; a more conscientious, high minded, or better qualified Vice Roy could not have been selected. (Great applause.) Brought up under exceptionally fortunate conditions, it is needless to say he has profited to the utmost by the advantages placed within his reach, many of which will have fitted him in an especial degree for his present post. His Public School and Collegiate education, his experience of the House of Commons, his large personal acquaintance with the representatives of all that are most distinguished in the intellectual world, his literary and artistic tastes, his foreign travel, will all combine to render him intelligently sympathetic with every phase and aspect of your national life. Above all, he comes from a good Whig stock ; that is to say, of a family whose prominence in history is founded upon the sacrifices they have made in the cause of constitutional liberty. When two of a man's ancestors have perished on the scaffold as martyrs to the cause of political and religious freedom, you may be sure there is little likelihood of their decendants seeking to encroach, when acting as representatives of the Crown, upon the privileges of Parliament or the independance of the people. (Loud cheers.)

As for your future princess, it would not become me to enlarge upon her merits. She will soon be amongst you, taking all hearts by storm by the grace, the suavity, the sweet simplicity of her manners, life and conversation. (Great cheering.)

Gentlemen, if ever there was a lady who in her earliest youth had formed a high ideal of what a noble

life should be ; if ever there was a human being who tried to make the most of the opportunities within her reach, and to create for herself, in spite of every tramel and impediment, a useful career and occasion of benefitting her fellow creatures, it is the Princess Louise, whose unpretending exertions to be of service to her country and generation have already won for her an extraordinary amount of popularity at home. (Applause.)

When to this you add an artistic genius of a high order, and innumerable other personal gifts and accomplishments, combined with manners so gentle, so unpretending, as to put every one who comes within reach of her influence at perfect ease, you cannot fail to understand that England is not merely sending you a Royal Princess of Majestic lineage, but a good and noble woman, in whom the humblest settler or mechanic in Canada will find an intelligent and sympathetic friend. (Cheers.) Indeed, gentlemen, I hardly know which pleases me most, the thought that the superintendence of your destinies is to be confined to persons so worthy of the trust, or that a dear friend of mine own, like Lord Lorne, and a personage for whom I entertain such respectful admiration as I do for the Princess Louise, should commence their future labors in the midst of a community so indulgent, so friendly, so ready to take the will for the deed, so generous in their recognition of any effort to serve them, as you have proved yourselves to be. And yet, alas, gentlemen, we must acknowledge there is one drawback to the picture. Lord Lorne has, as I have said, a multi-

tude of merits, but spots have even been discovered on the sun, and unfortunately an irreparable, and as I may call it a congenital defect attaches to this appointment, Lord Lorne is not an Irishman ; (loud laughter.) It is not his fault, he made the best use he could for himself, he came as near the right thing as possible by being born a Celtic Highlander. There is no doubt the world is best administered by Irishmen. (Hear, Hear.)

Things never went better with us, either at home or abroad, than when Lord Palmerston ruled Great Britain, (Cheers.) Lord Mayo governed India (Cheers;) and Lord Monk directed the destinies of Canada, (Cheers,) and the Robins, the Kennedys, the Laffans, the Calaghans, the Gores, the Hennesseys, administered the affairs of our Australian colonies and West Indian possessions. (Loud laughter.)

Have not even the French at last made the same discovery in the person of Martial MacMahon? (Laughter.) But we must be generous, and it is right that Scotland should have a turn. (Laughter.) After all, Scotland got her name because she was conquered by the Irish. (Laughter.) And if the real truth were known, it is probable the House of Inverary owes most of its glory to an Irish origin. (Applause.) Nay, I would go a step further ; I would even let the poor Englishman take an occasional turn at the helm. (Laughter.) If for no other reason than to make him aware how much better we manage the business. (Renewed laughter.) But you have not come to that yet ; and though you have been a little spoiled by having

been given three Irish Governor-Generals in succession I am sure you will find your new Vice Roy's personal and acquired qualifications will more than counter balance his ethnological disadvantages. And now, gentlemen, I must bid you farewell.

Never shall I forget the welcome extended to me in every town, village and hamlet of Ontario when I first came amongst you.

It was in travelling through your beautiful Province that I first learned to appreciate and understand the nature and character of your destinies. (Applause.) It was there I learned to believe in Canada and from that day to this my faith has never wavered. Nay, the further I extended my travels through the other Provinces, the more deeply my initial impressions were confirmed ; but it was amongst you they were first engendered, and it is with your smiling, happy hamlets that my brightest reminiscences are entwined. (Great applause.)

And what transaction could better illustrate the mighty changes your energeries have wrought than the one in which we are at this moment engaged? Standing, as we do, upon this lofty platform, surrounded by those antique and historic fortifications, so closely connected with the infant fortunes of the Colony, one cannot help contrasting the present scene with others of an analogous character which have been frequently enacted upon this very spot. The early Governors of Canada have often received in Quebec deputations from the very districts from which each of you have come, but in those days the sites now occupied by your pro-

sperous towns, the fields you till, the rose-clad bowers and trim lawns where your children sport in peace were then dense wildernesses of primeval forest, and those who came hence on an errand here were merciless savages, seeking the presence of the Vice Roy either to threaten war or vengeance, or at best to proffer a treacherous or uncertain peace. Little could Montmagny or Tracy, or Vaudreuil, or Frontenac, have ever imagined on such occasions that for the lank dusky forms of the Iroquois or Ottawa emissaries, would one day be substituted the beaming countenances and burly proportions of English speaking Wardens, Mayors, Aldermen and Reeves. (Applause.)

And now, gentlemen, again good-by, I cannot tell you how much I regret that Lady Dufferin could not be present to share the gratification I have experienced by your visit. Tell your friends at home how deeply I have been moved by this last and signal proof of their good-will, that their kindness shall never be forgotten, and that as long as I live it will be one of the chief ambitions of my life to render them faithful and effectual services. (Great applause.)

NAMES OF THE DELEGATES SIGNING THE
ADDRESS AND AT THE PRESENTATION.

R. Lewis, Mayor City of London, Ont.; Alex. Robertson, Mayor City of Belleville; Robert Henry, Mayor Brantford; T. M. Daly, Mayor of Stratford; John Crotty, Mayor of Bothwell; A. Trerice, Warden County Kent; Jno. Rae, Warden Wellington; Arthur Boyle, Warden County Haldimand; William Gray, Mayor of Chatham; Wm. Mack, Warden United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; T. H. Parker, Mayor of Woodstock; S. S. Burgess, Warden County Oxford; J. W. Scott, Mayor of Listowell; David Dunn, Warden County Simcoe; R. T. Banting, County Clerk County Simcoe; C. J. Mattice, Mayor of Cornwall; John G. Hagerman, Warden of Northumberland and Durham; Joshua Legg, jr., Warden United Counties Leeds and Grenville; C. Livingston, Mayor of Dresden; W. Chadwick, Mayor of Ingersoll; Paul Ross, Mayor of Walkerton; W. R. Aylesworth, Warden of Hastings; Geo. Howard, Mayor of Guelph; J. P. MacMillan, Alderman Guelph; C. Francis, Reeve of Trenton; W. A. Webster, Reeve of Front, Leeds and Lansdowne; W. D. McNaughton, Warden County Lambton; Robert Rae, Ex-Warden of Lambton; Robert Campbell, Reeve of Watford; W. Ireland, Ex-Warden of Lambton; W. Peers, Ex-Warden of Oxford and Reeve of East Oxford; G. H. Coole, Ex-Warden of Oxford and Reeve of West Oxford; Thomas Brown, Ex-Warden of Oxford and Reeve of Ingersoll; F. Cody, Deputy Reeve of West Oxford; Seneca Pitcher, Reeve of Norwich; D. W. Miller, Councillor Norwich; W. Naithsmith,

Councillor Woodstock; T. R. Dupuis, Alderman Kingston; R. J. Carson, W. I. Scott, E. C. Palmer, Councillor Norwich; John N. Tuttle, Reeve of Iroquois; F. S. Stevenson, Clerk County of Haldemand; Christopher Edmondson, Warden of Brant; C. R. Heyd, Alderman Brantford; R. Scott, Deputy Reeve of Galt; I. Tamby, H. Golding, Councillor North Oxford; T. Kilmer, Councillor C. A. Walkerton, T. Whitehead, Councillor; D. Moore, Councillor also of Walkerton; J. Barkley, Councillor of Oakville; Dennis Coffee, Alderman Guelph; Andrew W. Robb, Deputy Reeve Stratford; D. G. Stephenson, Reeve Scarboro; George Morgan, Councillor Scarboro; W. Rosbury, Councillor Bothwell; I. T. Fredway, Deputy Reeve Scarboro; Jacob Currier, Clerk Sandwich West; Fred. Biscoe, Councillor Guelph; G. J. Colquhoun, Councillor Waterloo; W. W. White, Town Clerk and Treasurer of Arthur; Fred. O. Proctor, Clerk Drayton; George Taylor, Reeve Gananoque; Charles E. Britton, Deputy Reeve Gananoque; J. A. Ramsden, Deputy Reeve Humberstone; W. Buckner, Warden of Welland; Francis Rae, Reeve, Oshawa; Alex. McKeller, Warden Middlesex; H. Grant, Inspector of Public Schools, Stratford; A. G. MacKay, Councillor Stratford; John Landerkin, Reeve Drayton; Hugo Krantz, Mayor Berlin.

